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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

September 28, 2015

Kathryn J. Steffey
Smith Hartvigsen PLLC
175 South Main Street, Suite 300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Subject: Response to Letters Received August 27, 2015, Pine Ridge Excavation, Pine Ridge Rock Mine, S/057/0010, Weber County, Utah

Dear Ms. Steffey:

On August 13, 2015, the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining ("Division") found Pine Ridge Excavation's Notice of Intention to Conduct Small Mining Operations (NOI) complete and gave final authorization to Pine Ridge to conduct mining on the cited property based on information provided by Dan Lockwood of Pine Ridge. This was after more than a year of Division efforts to bring Pine Ridge into compliance with the Division's small mine rules (R647-3), including providing a cultural resources survey and report, maps, signed reclamation contract, adequate reclamation surety, and various other compliance issues related to a small mining permit. Written verification of agreements between land owners and mine operators is required in the rules under which the Division operates. Therefore, when operating on private land, the Division typically accepts the information provided in the NOI regarding land ownership and right of entry.

In your letter dated August 26, 2015, Mr. Jensen has requested that the Division revoke the permit for Pine Ridge to mine on his land. As long as Pine Ridge operates within the requirements of the Mined Land Reclamation Act and associated rules, the Division cannot revoke an NOI. Mr. Jensen may petition the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining through a Request for Agency Action as set forth in rule R641-105. Through this procedure, he may request that the Board require Pine Ridge to cease all mining operations and conduct full reclamation.

Sincerely,

Dana Dean, P.E.
Associate Director of Mining

DD: mpb: eb

cc: Ronda Kippen, Weber County Planning (rkippen@co.weber.ut.us); Chris Harrild, Cache County Planning (chris.harrild@cachecounty.org)

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